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From: Pratt, Kristen
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 11:32:52 PM
Subject: Region 9 Efforts Re: Gold King Mine Spill and the CNMI Typhoon Recovery

Region 9 is involved in two high-profile emergency response actions this week: The Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, New Mexico and the Navajo Nation; and the recovery from Typhoon Soudelor in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Today, RA Jared Blumenfeld is visiting the San Juan River area with Administrator McCarthy.

Here is a summary of recent updates from EPA personnel on the scene in both areas. If you receive inquiries from the news media about the mine spill, please refer them to OPA, and if you get calls from the public, you may refer them to the EIC at 415-947-8000.

1. The **Gold King Mine spill** in southwestern Colorado sent about 3 million gallons of water contaminated with dissolved metals into the Animas River, which flows into the San Juan River, a water source for parts of the Navajo Nation.



EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 are working with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to make sure that people in the affected area have access to safe drinking water, and to assess impacts to fish and wildlife. Region 9 is assisting the Navajo Nation with providing safe drinking water to residents who ordinarily use water from the San Juan. For more details, go to <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>.

Region 9 deployed On-Scene Coordinators Rob Wise and Steve Calanog in Durango, Colo.; Randy Nattis, Brett Moxley, and Maggie Waldon in Farmington, N.M.; and Tom Dunkelman in Page, Ariz., plus contractors and four members of the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team to

assist with water sampling and lab services. Superfund's Bill Robberson will be sampling water in Lake Powell, and Rusty Harris-Bishop is our Public Information Officer in the Joint Information Center, and David Yogi, Secody Hubbard, and Laura Ebbert are assisting the Navajo Nation's outreach efforts.



2. In CNMI, **Typhoon Soudelor** brought hurricane-force winds on August 2-3 that disabled Saipan's electric power plant, electricity distribution system, and drinking water system, and caused an oil spill at the Mobil Micronesia terminal. Region 9 has deployed On-Scene Coordinators Chris Weden and Marty Powell to respond to the oil spill. They are also supporting debris removal work, and responding to other oil spills, transformers containing PCBs on downed power poles, and hazardous materials.

Janice Witul of the Enforcement Division is staffing the Joint Field Office in Saipan and coordinating with Lance Richman, Pete Guria, and Harry Allen in our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 75 Hawthorne. Kevin Ryan and Andrew Sallach of the Water Division are in Saipan monitoring drinking water sources and wastewater systems. Karl Banks is providing support from the EOC. All are cooperating with FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team, and CNMI agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Keener at 2-3940.

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